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FRESH NEWS FROM AFRICA

Southern Baptist Missionary Tells of Conditions and Effects of War in Dark Continent.

An interesting description of the way Africa has been effected by the war is given by E. T. McLean, of the Southern Baptist Convention. He says:

We are, or were, sandwiched in between German colonies. Togoland, with a narrow strip of French territory between, is just to the west of us, while Cameroons adjoins Nigeria on the east. The former has been taken by the British, and fighting is still going on in the latter place.

Trade and transportation were paralyzed for a time and have only partially recovered, but this affected the missionaries more than the work. No money has come to the mission from the Board since the war began, and some of the brethren are feeling the pinch very much. The native workers are also affected, as they could not be paid this month. When the war broke out, the government seized all food supplies, and for a time it was difficult to get the necessities of life; but the situation is easier now.

We in Saki are further removed from the influence of the terrible struggle, and the work goes quietly on. A few years ago the people were indifferent to the missionary and his



(Kwangju dispensary Bible woman, who is a devout Christian and a fine Bible student.)

message. The chiefs seemed suspicious of the white man's motives and innovations. Now all this is changing. All the chiefs of the town are friendly, and some are bringing children to the missionaries to train. One (the old war chief) has been baptized, which meant giving up his wives, and several other chiefs are showing an interest in our work.

People at home cannot understand the importance of this in a country where the people are so completely ruled by and through their chiefs. The people would not dare to have anything to do with what the chiefs disapproved.

Church congregations are growing larger, indifference is giving place to a desire to learn and professions of faith in Christ. During the past twelve months fifty-one have been baptized, and a number are now awaiting baptism.

A few months ago we started an open-air Sunday school in a quarter of the town that had not been touched by Christianity. There are now four classes with an attendance of about seventy. This would not have been possible a few years ago, and it shows how opportunities are opening up.

Methodism Leading in Japan. Rev. W. A. Davis, of Kyoto, Japan, reports that the Methodist church and mission during 1914 had the largest number of baptisms of any church in Japan. The net increase in the mission and in that portion of the Japanese church which is in the territory of the mission and therefore in a way under its care was 212. The number of baptisms, adult and infant, was 375; number of organized classes, 49; preaching places, 72; total membership, 2,678; Sunday schools, 95; officers and teachers, 385; pupils, 5,851.

The Bible in Russia. The circulation of the Scriptures in Russia during the first three months of 1915 amounted to 200,000 copies; of these 50,000 were sold by colportage. Although the number of colporteurs in Russia has fallen from 70 to 55 in consequence of the war. In the same way 34,500 books were given away among soldiers and prisoners, besides 1,000 other books sold at war discount for free distribution.

Rural Credits

By J. T. Thomas

(continued from last week)

Low interest rates and loans on long time to the farmer sounds nice and looks good in print, and many of the foremost thinkers of today—all politicians (for the sake of votes), and a few bankers and business men advocate or endorse a land loan scheme of some kind, where the farmer, as they seem to think, may be brought from dependence to independence, not by toil or through business acumen, as it should be, but rather by a process or through a financial scheme untried and I fear wholly inapplicable to conditions in this country.

Even as far back as fifteen years the farmers of the middle west found it comparatively easy to secure needful funds on satisfactory terms at reasonable interest rates. And why? Because their lands were readily salable at good values and the further fact that many farmers of that section had money to lend or invest in lands. They grew to independence by effort, toil and frugality and under more adverse conditions than those which confront the farmer of today, nor were they given advantage of a scheme or organization, whereby money on unusual long time and at very low interest rates was available. Farmers in other sections, more particularly of the South, will become even more prosperous than those of the West, so soon as they reduce farm acreage—produce more than they consume, really learn "that time is money," become systematic and keep everlastingly at it.

No other business of our country can show so marked an improvement, within the past decade, as that of farming, and, too, in spite of present rates of interest. In fact, each year shows a marked improvement in farm life over each preceding year, and our farmers, as do those engaged in other pursuits, should be content to progress by evolution, gradually but surely.

Those loudest in advocating low rates of interest for the farmer do not tell us that 3½ per cent. to 4 per cent. is about the prevailing rate of interest in those countries where farmers are favored by low rates, nor are we told that it is impossible for the small investor to secure a better rate than that paid by the land loan banks of those countries, otherwise the rate of interest on farm loans would command a higher rate, for the people of Europe are only human after all, and it is because the small investor does not understand how to secure a better rate that farm loans are in demand.

Lands in those countries do not change owners so easily or readily as here, for if a farm is sold the owner cannot do as we, step over to his neighbor, go a little further down the creek or to Texas, and strike a bargain for another; nor can the seller seek another occupation, as we do here; because, usually, farming is the extent of his business training, so when one sells his farm in reality he sells his occupation. While it is true that the peasantry of France own a large per cent of the government bonds of that country, which pay only 3 per cent. and 4 per cent., yet they seldom attempt to rise

above the avocation of their forebears, and only in isolated cases do they ever break away from their occupations and associations; while in this country where all races are amalgamated and which is the melting pot of all religions, the son of a shoemaker, who would have been a shoemaker in Europe, may be a bank president, a merchant or a politician. Therefore, you cannot in any way compare the progressiveness of our people and especially our farmers with ultra conservative farmers of European countries, where the farm loan companies thrive.

Admitting that the farmer should be favored with long-time loans at low interest rates, from what source are we to secure money in order to meet the demand. The banks of the country cannot supply the necessary capital to be invested in long-time loans, because their notes must be in liquid form. I mean by this that loans made by banks of necessity must be on short time, so that they may be called on short notice in order to care for customary or unusual withdrawal of deposits. Aside from this, a rate of even 6 per cent. on loans would not sustain the interior banks of our country and allow for customary dividends to stockholders, because of cost of operation, the tax alone on capital stock of banks in some States being about 4 per cent., and many interior banks pay 4 per cent. on time deposits, which, in some cases constitutes about one-third of the total, so then it would be impossible for banks to take stock in or lend assistance to a land loan scheme, even at a good rate of interest. If the banks cannot supply necessary funds to further the scheme, then to what source may we look for the capital?

In other words, who will subscribe for the stock in farm loan banks? Not the farmer, for he has idle money to invest, other lands, bonds or loans at a better rate would prove a more attractive investment; not the merchants, who as a class have no idle money, and if they do have, larger stocks of goods or loans at 8 per cent. would be a much more attractive investment, not the professional man, for a 6 per cent. investment would not appeal to him when he can just as easily secure an 8 per cent. loan; and surely not the politician, for real, substantial, honest assistance is the last thing he has to give to a confiding and credulous constituency. I wonder if the day will ever dawn when the eyes of the voter will be open, that he may see and understand that the political demagogue is not his friend, but rather plays upon his political aggrandizement, oftentimes creating within his breast a resentment toward his fellowman, wholly fallacious, and inflaming his imagination to a degree which causes his unrest and largely destroys his peace of mind, and in a measure unfits him to rationally and discreetly exercise the right of suffrage.

If the banks, the business men or the farmers cannot supply the capital necessary to put into operation corporation or banks, whereby loans may be made to farmers at low rate of interest, then would it be practical for our government to attempt to do so? Some of our statesmen and a few foremost business men today seem to think well of such a scheme and advocate the organization of land loan banks, with the idea that the govern-

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ment undertake to direct and finance them, in a restricted way. Such a plan is incompatible with my views of practical or proper business methods, and I believe would prove untenable and unsound in operation. To organize such a corporation, even if legal, would possibly benefit those in control of its execution vastly more than it would the farmer, in the way of commissions, expenses, etc. As I view the situation, the blessings of low interest rates and money on easy terms come only through conditions such as prevail in European countries mentioned, and which makes it possible for the farmer over there to secure money on such favorable terms. The law of compensation must be heeded, and the law of percentage will in the end govern. Impossible in the scheme of finance and business to get something for nothing. If we have cheap money, of necessity and as a prerequisite thereto we must undergo and accept conditions positively indispensable to the plan by which the privilege is made possible. If the farmers of Europe enjoy the blessings of cheap money on easy terms of payment, are they not subjected to disadvantages, such as poverty, high tax, circumscribed activities and low wages, which more than counterbalance the advantage of low interest? None of our people would care to exchange financial, civic or social conditions, or the privileges we enjoy, for those of any country in Europe, and until we are willing to do so we cannot hope to obtain any of their seeming advantages in finance.

(continued next week)

Ugh! A Dose of Nasty Calomel

It salivates! It makes you sick and you may lose a day's work

You're bilious, sluggish, constipated and believe you need vile, dangerous calomel to start your liver and clean your bowels.

Here's my guarantee! Ask your druggist for a 50 cent bottle of Dodson's Liver Tone and take a spoonful tonight. If it doesn't start your liver and straighten you right up better than calomel and without griping or making you sick I want you to go back to the store and get your money.

Take calomel today and tomorrow you will feel weak and sick and nauseated. Don't lose a day's work. Take a spoonful of harmless, vegetable Dodson's Liver Tone tonight and wake up feeling great. It's perfectly harmless, so give it to your children any time. It can't salivate, so let them eat anything afterwards. adv

To the Voters of Chickasaw County

My duties and business at home make it impractical for me to make another canvass of the County before the second primary. I take this method of expressing to you sincerest thanks for your loyalty in the first and asking your support in the second. If elected, as I have said throughout the campaign, I shall stand for equal rights to all and special privileges to none, expenditures within the revenues, measures looking forward to a more just equalization of State tax, some of the officers on a salary where they pay too much on fee basis. I shall stand opposed to too much legislation and unnecessary legislation. My test shall be, "Is it right and best for the people of my State?" The office barely pays expenses but it is very important to the people. You have been good to me. I want to be elected your Senator solely that I may give some of the best efforts of my young manhood to the service of the State. No one would appreciate your support more than I. I shall be glad to address the people of the County when requested to do so.

adv.

JOE H. FORD.

To the Voters of the Northern District of Mississippi

I desire to express to you my deep appreciation of the splendid vote given me on August 3rd for Penitentiary Trustee of this District.

When I entered the race I was practically a stranger to a great majority of the voters and, therefore, the manner in which they have rallied to my support is doubly gratifying to me. The almost unanimous support of my home county, and those adjoining counties where I am known, is, of course, a source of much gratification to me. I assure them that their loyalty to me will never be forgotten.

It will be impossible for me, in the short time before the second primary on August 24th, to make another thorough canvass of the District and I am, therefore, compelled to adopt this means of thanking you for your support heretofore given me and soliciting further assistance in the final primary on August 24th.

I have fought a clean fight. I have not at any time, or on any occasion, sought to take an unfair advantage of my opponents, but in the entire campaign have firmly and consistently advocated certain policies which I believe will prove advantageous to the people of Mississippi, and which policies I expect to enforce if I am honored by election to this responsible office.

I am just a plain, practical man, with no false politics to hold out to you, but come before you asking your suffrage because of the righteousness of my politics and the benefits that will result to our people by their enforcement.

Assuring each and all of you that I will appreciate your assistance in the coming primary,

and promising you that, if elected, I will exert every effort towards representing you as your servant, I remain

Yours truly,

adv. L. Q. STONE.

To the Voters of Chickasaw County

I want to express to you my sincere thanks for the vote you gave me on August 3rd for Chancery Clerk.

I want to again most earnestly solicit your vote and active support on the 24th. I want to be elected because I feel that I can render to you faithful and efficient service in that office.

I want you to measure me by any standard and see that I come up to what a man should make an officer that would be a credit to your county.

If I am competent and efficient and there is no reason why I should not be elected, then I appeal to you to stand by me in this race and help me to win, for it means much to me.

Soliciting again your support and help, I am

Yours truly,

adv. W. A. WILKINSON.

Path of the Kakapo

Several birds make regular paths to and from their resorts. Those of the Antarctic penguins are noted by all explorers in their region. Very noticeable are those in the haunts of the kakapo, the large, rock-dwelling, burrow-nesting owl-like parrot of the mountains of New Zealand. They beat down regular paths along the spurs and ridges where they abound, so that a person might be excused for supposing they were meant for human feet. It is along these avenues that the birds go to and fro on their nocturnal rambles, and as they march they snip off and perhaps eat every protruding spear of grass or weed, keeping the path perfectly clear. When the path is buried in snow they still follow it on the surface and soon beat down a track.

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